

Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer-Idaho's Treasure



Can you name the towns
pictured on the signs?
(Write your answers on the back.)

What is the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer?

The Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer is the largest aquifer in Idaho and one of the most productive in the world. Like all aquifers, it is not an underground lake but a body of permeable rock and sediment (often sand, gravel, or fractured rock) that yields useable amounts of water.

The Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer lies beneath 10,800 square miles of southern Idaho. It is about 160 miles long, stretching from Ashton southwest to Twin Falls and King Hill, and is 60 miles across at its widest point. This aquifer is believed to be as deep as 4,000 feet and to contain up to a billion acre-feet of water, more than Lake Erie.

To learn more about the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer, go to http://www.deq.idaho.gov/inl_oversight/index.cfm

The Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer is recognized as a "sole source" aquifer.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer as a "sole source aquifer" in 1991, which means it is the "sole or principal source" of drinking water for the area.

Who depends on the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer?

- 💧 The agricultural community in southeastern Idaho depends on water from both the Snake River and the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer to produce potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, barley, beans, peas, and alfalfa, and to operate dairies and feed lots.
- 💧 The aquaculture (fish-farming) industry depends on the combined resources of the Snake River and the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer to provide water for three-quarters of our nation's farm-raised trout.
- 💧 Most importantly, the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer is the only source of drinking water for roughly 300,000 residents in eastern Idaho.



Can you solve the clues to Idaho's treasure?

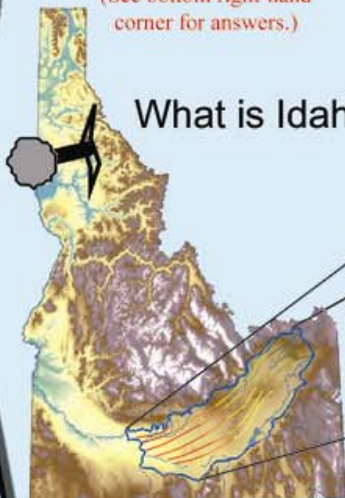


Name that town. Can you name all seven towns on the other side of this placemat?

(See bottom right-hand corner for answers.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

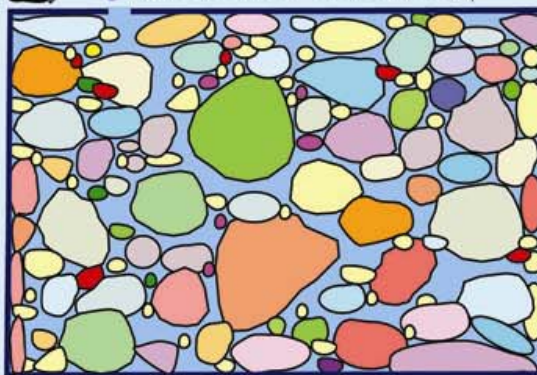
What is Idaho's treasure?



Unscramble *Idaho's treasure*:

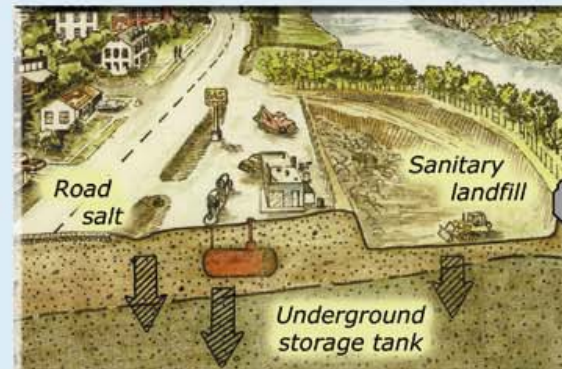
hte atnrse nakse vrier ainpl qufreai

Find the **water drop's path**:



The **path water travels** through an aquifer is full of twists and turns. Water will follow the path of least resistance, twisting in and out, above and below sediment grains and broken pieces of rock that make up the aquifer. Starting at the water droplet, can you find the path of least resistance to the water pump?

Many things people do can be **sources of pollution** to the aquifer. Look at these pictures and then unscramble the words to see what can pollute the aquifer if care is not taken.



Unscramble **pollution sources**:

rmngiaf _____

tescpi sstmey _____

kostc dysra _____

aord ltas _____

guuddnreron gtsearo aknt _____

itasynar fndllial _____

